

From: Wattrsedge@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2007 4:38 PM
To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Mirant Plant in Alexandria/Hearing

Christa Watters
1186 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1456

Mr. Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193
Email: thdarton@deq.virginia.gov

November 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Darton:

I live just two blocks from the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station in Alexandria, Virginia.

This plant, opened in 1949, once stood on the edge of the industrial part of the City. Now surrounded by residential areas, it continues to use outdated technology. At a recent meeting at City Hall, Ms. Debra Bolton said Mirant is still trying new methods to achieve maximum efficiency in reducing pollutants. The discussion at issue concerned the difference between using Trona and bicarbonate of soda. The safety and effectiveness of using either of these methods has not been scientifically established. We do know that installing baghouse filters would be a far more efficient technology for removing toxins and particulate matter from the plant's emissions. If Mirant were really interested in achieving maximum efficiency in cleaning up its emissions, it would install such filters, and I urge you to require this. Given that this plant's emission stacks are 75 to 100 feet shorter than for most comparable plants, this is especially important.

Any permit issued to this plant should require the use of the best available technology and should set emission limits for all known toxins and pollutants this plant produces – in line with the most up to date scientific information available about the effect of such emissions on public health. We know it is now possible to monitor emissions on a continuous basis, and we ask that you require this plant to install such monitors. Other states, including our neighboring state of Maryland, require Mirant to operate to a much stricter standard than this plant has ever had to meet. Why should the health of Virginia residents be valued any less than that of our neighbors in Maryland?

I strongly endorse the City's position with regard to the Mirant Plant permitting process.

Sincerely,

Christa Watters

PS I am sending this same letter as an attachment as well.